



Remember Those From Whom You Came

Newsletter Of The Clan MacAlpine Society

The Worldwide Organization For MacAlpines
4th Quarter 2018 ~ Volume 42



Kenneth
McAlpine



William
McAlpin



Michael
McAlpin



Finn
Alpin



Sidney
McAlpin



Earl
McAlpine



Bruce
McAlpine

Commander's News

Nollaig Chridheil, Merry Christmas, haud Hogmanay and a Guid New Year to you.

Hogmanay, virtually unknown other than in Scotland, and generally called New Years Eve everywhere else, is an opportunity to greet friends and neighbors perhaps with a "handsel" (a gift given by the hand). Often these gifts were symbolic wishes for the New Year to come. Coal for heat, whisky for good cheer and hospitality, while shortbread and black bun, a rich cake, symbolized good food all year.

It has been a good year for our kindred, with exciting events in Scotland, the US and Canada. My thanks to the many whom I had the privilege of meeting at various events in, Illinois, Washington, Oregon, North Carolina, Georgia and of course Scotland over the last year.

We continue to expand our knowledge of our past, of where and how we lived. I think that is a keen focus of all of us who honor and value the rich heritage of Scotland and each additional discovery that is made adds depth and texture to our understanding.

January 25th will be the 259th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. It is a grand reason to put on the MacAlpine tartan and go out and celebrate.

If you have never been to one of the highland games, they are all fun events; the MacAlpines host a hospitality tent at many of them. Next year we will be adding two new venues to our growing list. The Central Florida Games in January, an the Northeast Florida games in February.



Yours Aye,

Michael T McAlpin,
Commander



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

Society Officers:

President: Earl Dale McAlpine

Vice President: Mark McAlpin

Treasurer: Janet McAlpine

Secretary: Robin McAlpine

Member at Large: Finn Stavnsbo Alpin

Newsletter Editor: Janet McAlpine

President's News



Dear Family,

What a wonderful year it has been for our heritage and family connections.

We had 12 Clan MacAlpine Society tents in ten states, and Fergus Canada. Because we continue to be a presence as often as possible, we are meeting new family members and our membership is growing.

Membership is up to 532 email subscribers, 1030 members on our Facebook page and possibly as many as 3500 extended family members (a family of four, with only one member listed) .

We had a great turnout of 42 family members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) dinner and meeting in Atlanta, GA. Stone Mountain was the location of our AGM.

On our website, macalpineclan.com, we now have a Family Merchandise Store. Items such as MacAlpine lapel pins, challenge coins and kilt pins are available. These would make great gifts for your loved ones. There is also a menu item labeled "Fund Projects" which has the "Kilmartin Museum Fund", "Pipe Band and Drum Fund", "Scottish Dance Fund" and "Society Clan Tent Fund". Funds can be donated through PayPal (you don't have to be a member of PayPal to use it). Select one or more areas that you would like to donate to and the amount will be directed by your selection to the project of your choice.

Leading Genealogist of Scotland, Dr. Bruce Durie has written a new book named "Your Scottish American Ancestry" in which our family of MacAlpin's has been named directly. This book is an interesting read and is available on Amazon.

Our Wikipedia entry was finally approved after more than a year of work and editing. We are entered as "Clan McAlpin(e)". We plan to continue to update and make small changes as we progress. Be sure to check it out. Last, but certainly not least, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the brightest of the New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

In Kinship,

Dale McAlpine, President

Look for the MacAlpine tent at these Highland Games



**Central Florida
Highland Games**
January 20 + 21, 2019

Central Winds Park
1000 Central Winds Dr
(East SR 434)
Winter Springs FL



**Northeast Florida
Highland Games**
February 23rd, 2019

**Clay County
Fairgrounds**
2497 State Road 16 West
Green Cove Springs, FL

2018 AGM Dinner

Submitted by Michael McAlpin, Jr.

The 2018 AGM Dinner, held on October 19th in conjunction with the Stone Mountain Highland Games, was a huge success! Hosted at the Robert Burns Cottage of Atlanta, over 30 of our kin enjoyed a night of great food, great whisky, and great conversation. The cottage, exact replica of Robert Burns birthplace, added to the ambiance of the night.

After some socializing, the dinner started with introductions and then a reading of the Selkirk Grace by Michael McAlpin Jr. A wee bit of haggis was properly piped in next, and the feast began!

Our friends at Old Blind Dog Irish Pub catered the meal, and there were many compliments on the food...the meal was really good! Appetizers followed by a main course of Scottish salmon, braised lamb, neeps, tatties, asparagus, and of course haggis was the feast for the night.



We also had a fine whisky tasting between courses, led by our guest Professor Elliot McFarlane. Professor McFarlane is a Single Maltarian and Whisky Ambassador, well educated on “The water of life!” Elliot was simply engaging to listen to as he educated the dinner party to the different Scotches being served, how it is made, and told a few stories as well. One of the stories (a true one to boot!) was about John McAlpine and the attempt to blow up Carnassarie Castle in 1685.

5 bottles of excellent 18 year Scotch were on hand for our sampling—one from each Scotch producing region of Scotland.

Auchentoshen 18- a Lowland Scotch founded in 1823.

Springbank 18- A Rare Campbeltown Scotch. This distillery had been in operation since 1828.

Bunnahabhain 18- A true island Scotch. Located on the Isle of Islay, established 1883!

Aberlour 18- A Speyside Distillery since 1879. Located half way between Inverness and Aberdeen.

Highland Park 18- Started in 1798 with the distillery in the Orkney Islands, a true Highland Scotch and the most northern of the distilleries.



We also had the pleasure to have Mark McAlpin and Dale McAlpine present Commander Michael McAlpin with a new 2-feather cap badge.

With our recognition by Lyon Court, and with a duly nominated and named Commander, the 2nd feather signifies Michael's status as Commander.

Many thanks to all who attended. It was great to see everyone come together in kinship, enjoy each others company, and strengthen our bonds.



Kilmartin and Dunadd

Submitted by Graeme Alexander McAlpine

After having read both Joan McAlpine's article on Kilmartin Glen and Mark McAlpin's item on the 'Argyll Boar' in our newsletter, my wife and I decided to visit what many clan members consider their 'spiritual', or perhaps 'DNA' home, whilst on our holiday last October.

Dál Riata was the Gaelic kingdom that included parts of western Scotland. Near Kilmartin, Dunadd Fort is believed to have been its capital. Kilmartin is a small village at the centre Kilmartin Glen and is rich in both prehistoric and historic legacy, with over 800 monuments within a 6 mile radius.



Our exploration of the area began at the Kilmartin Museum, next to the church. Here you can discover treasures and artifacts from all corners of Argyll. The museum provides the background stories behind the ancient monuments scattered nearby.

Next to the museum is the Kilmartin Parish Church, (which has recently put up for sale), it was opened in 1835, though there had been early churches on this site. Two magnificent ancient stone crosses are on display in the church and there are others of these 'Kilmartin Crosses' in the graveyard, where there is an excellent collection of sculptured medieval grave slabs. The highlight of our visit to Kilmartin was seeing the McAlpine name adorning the stone crosses in the graveyard. It highlights the clan's close association with the area.



After a lovely lunch at the museum cafe, we headed off for a walk around the nearby monuments, Temple Wood Circle (a henge monument), the numerous chambered burial cairns and the Nether Largie Standing Stones. The standing stone 'Circle' at Temple Wood is thought to have started as a place of ceremonies, dating back to 3,000 BC. Running out in a line from the village, over a distance of three miles, there are five remaining cairns. The Nether Largie standing stones are located southeast of Temple Wood and are composed of four menhirs, arranged in pairs, with a single menhir in the middle. All these ancient monuments are very accessible and we enjoyed our stroll, soaking up the historical atmosphere.

The following morning, we visited Dunadd, before heading home. Dunadd Fort, or the 'Royal Fortress', is a rocky crag a few miles north of Lochgilphead, that was first fortified 2,400 years ago, later becoming the citadel of the Kings of Dál Riata, the first Kings of Scotland.



The climb to the top of this 175 foot outcrop is very tricky (especially if wet,) but well worth the effort to see the vista across Mòine Mhòr (Great Moss) and the Kilmartin Valley with the River Add. It is here on the summit where you can place your foot (as we did) into the stone footprint where the first Kings of Scotland were inaugurated. Beside this well worn

depression is the extremely faded and almost impossible to see carving of a boars head, which is an essential part of the Clan McAlpine logo. Between AD500 and AD900 this location was one of the most important places in what has since become Scotland.



With over 5000 years of human history across the Kilmartin valley, this an ideal vacation spot to visit, especially if you are a McAlpin(e) !

Kilmartin, Kilmichael and Ford Churches for Sale



The Church of Scotland has placed the churches shown above for sale as they consolidate their services at the newly acquired Living Stones Christian Center (located behind the Kilmartin Hotel).

The Community is beginning a feasibility study to gauge interest in acquiring Kilmartin church. The graveyards are separate.



Russell the Dog is Teacher's Pet

FREE METRO by Joel Taylor Published Oct 9, 2018

B IS FOR bark at a school where a canine teaching assistant helps pupils learn to read.

Collie-Alsatian cross Russell, 13, is adored by children when he joins their reading groups every Friday. The rescue dog belongs to school worker Kelsie McAlpine, 25, who researched the benefits of pupils having contact with animals.

Their confidence in reading has soared since he first visited Coalsnaughton primary school in Alloa, Clackmannanshire in February. 'Dogs do not judge, they just listen,' said Ms McAlpine. Russell wears a tiny uniform and has a backpack containing a pouch of dog food and his favourite treats.



We did notice that Russell was lacking a proper tartan, so he now sports a dapper MacAlpine scarf. Society Member Kelsie and Russell send their thanks.



Hosting a Clan Tent

Thanks to all who have expressed an interest in hosting a Clan Tent. Here is information for you to help you with what is needed to host a tent at Highland games.

The Society will provide a start up kit and pay the festival fees for the first year. If you plan on hosting the following year, or at other games, hold on to the kit, if you are looking at a one time use, we ask that you return the kit.

Many games require you to bring your own popup tent, while others require the use of their tents. Most games include a table and chairs. Details of what specific games provide are available on the games website, along with tent sponsor applications.

Here is a list of what you will find in the Clan MacAlpine Society startup kit:

- MacAlpine banner
- MacAlpine poster
- Informational trifolds
- Copies of last two newsletters
- Sign in sheets
- Boars head stamp
- Copies of Clan Encyclopedia
- Nametags

In addition to what the society provides, you will need the following:

- PVC pipes or other poles to hold banner above tent
- Assorted bungies to hold pvc pipes or other poles to tent poles as in pictures above
- Zip Ties
- Table Cloth
- Netting to hold pictures at side of tent
- Duct Tape
- Side-Cutter to remove zip ties
- Table Decorations
- Fasteners to hold pictures
- Scissors



Each host will have their own ideas about other items they will want at their tent to make it welcoming to visitors. Some of those items may include:

- An ice chest with ice
- Bottles of water
- Plastic cups
- Shortbread or a butterscotch candy
- A bottle of scotch (where allowed)
- Small plastic cups for the scotch

Some tent hosts like to add a game for the children, so we created the MacAlpine Sheep Game which is downloadable from our website. The game consists of lost sheep, that can be distributed to other clan tents, along with a scorecard to be signed by the tents where the lost sheep are located. Upon completion of the scorecard, the child can return to the MacAlpine tent for a treat. If you add the game, remember the treats.

Hosting a tent is a great experience and you have the opportunity of getting to meet and introduce fellow MacAlpines to the Society as well as get acquainted with others who share your Scottish heritage. Let us know if you have an interest in hosting a tent at a Highland games event in your area.

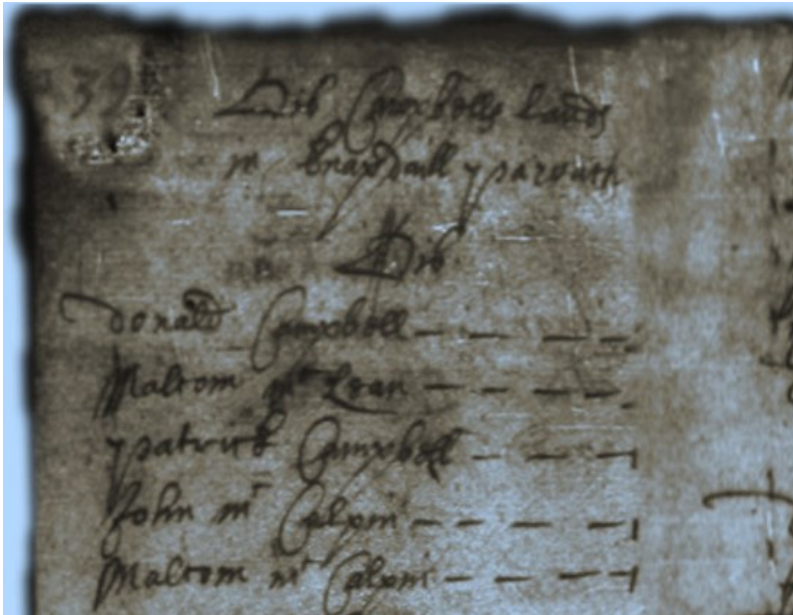
The Hearth Tax Records

Submitted by Mark McAlpin
Sennachie Elect

Our efforts to find out more about our history have been assisted by several sources that help place names with locations. Amongst them are the records of the Hearth Tax. The Hearth Tax was an early attempt at a graduated tax system: each hearth would be assessed 14 shillings to raise money for the army. Thus, larger homes would have larger bills. Paupers, and hospitals were exempt.

England had utilized a Hearth Tax since 1662, but Scotland only began the tax in 1691. However, to make such a tax system work, roads and addresses are required, and the highlands; and, in particular, remote Kilmartin and Knapdale, simply did not have the tools in place to accurately collect and record the tax. Thus, the crofts and villages carried names.

The lists are incomplete, particularly for Kilmartin, and "Hearth" is not defined. Many of the poorer people may not have had a hearth, at all. Many MacAlpines appear as tenants on these lists, primarily on lands owned by Campbell of Auchinbreck.



Listed on the 1694 Hearth Tax Records for Oib:

John McAlpin ---- 1
Malcolm McAlpin ---- 1

As a consequence of Argyll's Rebellion in 1685, Auchinbreck's lands were forfeited.

But, in 1691 the Government gave the chiefs who had participated in the rebellion an opportunity to take an oath of allegiance, after which all treasons would be pardoned and their estates restored. Auchinbreck took the oath, but was ruined. Along with others, he suffered destruction of property, plundering of goods, loss of cattle and sheep, deprivation of rent for four years and the expense of living abroad.

When he returned, it was to tenants (many MacAlpines), who had themselves been robbed and impoverished. Efforts to assess and collect the Hearth tax were less than successful and finding implementation impractical, it was discontinued in 1694. Still, the lists are useful because they include the names of tenants, the number of hearths in each dwelling, and the names of each township in use at the time.

Gradually, the Estates of Auchinbreck headed towards bankruptcy. Facing great hardship, the tenants of Auchinbreck's estates were anxious to find a better life. Under the leadership of Duncan Campbell of Kilduskland and Dugald MacTavish of Dunardry "a considerable number of people" sailed from North Knapdale in July 1739. In November 1741, word was received that they had settled at Cape Fear in North Carolina and expected "a greater number of the poorer sort to follow."

Campbell of Auchinbreck fell into bankruptcy in 1762, bringing down many of the other landowners that were indebted to him. The new Landowners becoming Campbell of Inverneill and Malcolm of Poltalloch. Many MacAlpines became tenants of the Malcolm estates.

Townships, Dabhachs, Pennylands, Shielings Souming and Sowing

Many of the place-names associated with MacAlpines are crofting townships, the sizes of which vary widely, as do the number of households.

In Scotland, a crofting township is a legal unit of agricultural smallholdings each with its own patch of pasture and cropland and holding in common a tract of shieling, or unimproved upland grazing.

In the highlands, the unit of land was called a Dabhach or Ounceland, the amount of land on which the annual rent would be an ounce of silver. The size of a Dabhach could vary widely based on the quality of the land. Each Dabhach was further divided into twenty pennylands.



Scottish land measurements tended to be based not size of the plot, but on how much livestock they could support, or quantity of crops could be grown.

Determining the productivity of the land was called the Souming for livestock, and the Sowing for crops. For example, a horse was a full soum, two cows, a soum; and eight sheep a soum (the actual numbers varied by locale).

For crops, it was based on how many bolls (Scottish measurement roughly equivalent to six imperial bushels) of oats, barley, or potatoes could be produced.

At Tayvallich, one of the place names associated with MacAlpines, a transfer of ownership from Roger MacNeill to Lt. Colonel Archibald Campbell of the 71st Highland Regiment in 1779 occasioned a souming and sowing determination. After sworn testimony of those familiar with past years of production, the determination was made that for a particular plat of land known as Duntaynish, the Souming was Fourty cows with calves; Eight horses and forty sheep, and that the Sowing was from twenty-six to twenty-seven bolls of oats; from three to four bolls barley; and some potatoes.

The Merk

Originally the same word as a money mark of silver, the merk was a Scottish silver coin in circulation at the end of the 16th century and in the 17th century.

It was originally valued at 13s 4d (exactly $\frac{2}{3}$ of a pound Scots, or about one English shilling), later raised to 14s Scots. In addition to merks, half-merk and quarter-merk coins were produced with values of, respectively, 7s and 3s 6d, as well as a four-merk coin of 56s (£2 16s).

The first issue weighed 103.8 grains (6.73 g) and was 50% silver and 50% base metals, thus it contained 0.108125 troy ounces (3.3631 g) of silver, worth about £1.17 (\$1.52) at November 2018 prices.

The 1707 Act of Union, amongst other things, unified currency across England and Scotland. But while Scottish currency was officially abolished in that year, it still remained as a concept in many aspects of society "Markland" or "Merkland" was used to describe an amount of land in Scottish deeds and legal papers. It was based upon a common valuation of the land. Thus wills and titles even after 1707 may be found recorded in "merks", or "silver merks", even though the currency was not in use.



Moine Mohr – the Great Moss

One of Scotland's National Nature Reserves, Moine Mohr covers the heartland of the Kilmartin Glen.



The Great Moss' started its life over 5000 years ago and once covered a vast area from the Crinan Estuary in the west to the ancient hill fort at Dunadd in the east and north to Kilmartin. In more recent times, tree planting and land reclaimed for farming has reduced its size but it still extends over 500 hectares (1235 acres).

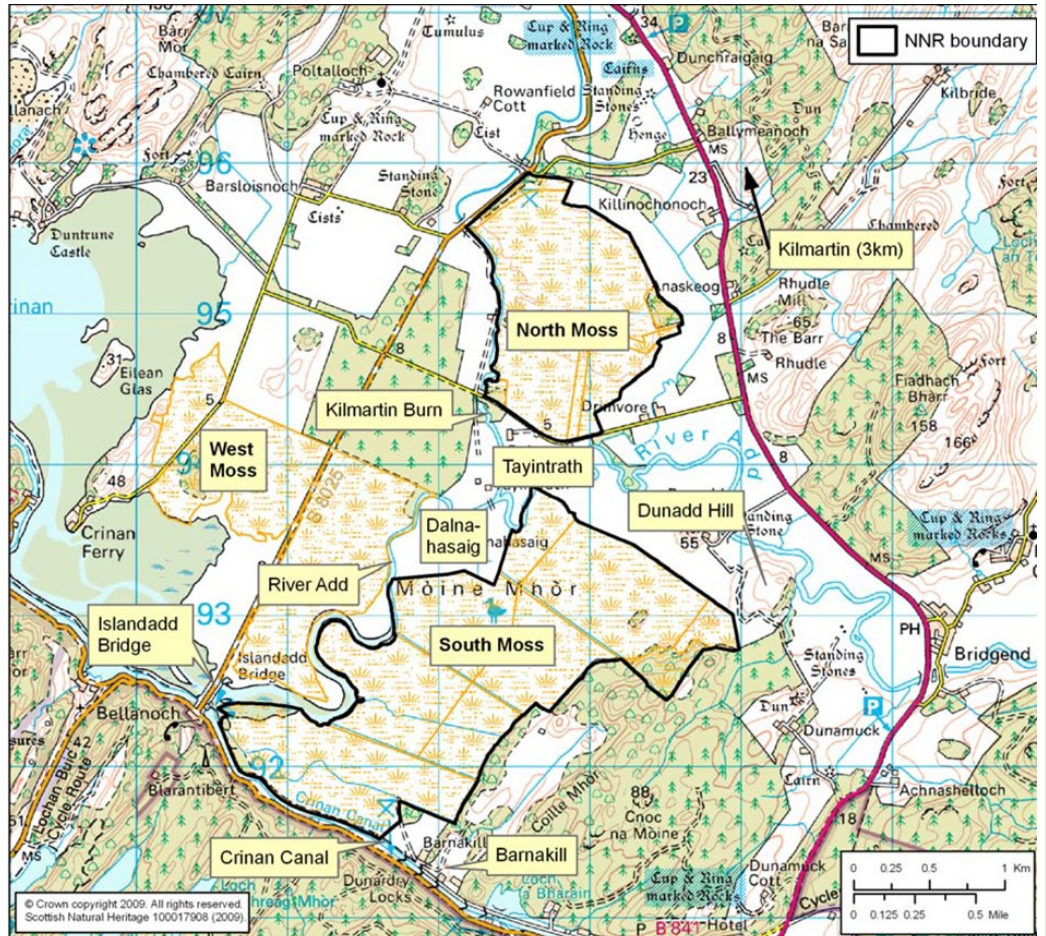
Moine Mohr from Dunadd and Moine Mohr from Kilmartin Cemetery



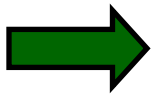
The highest point on the bog is only 13 metres (43 feet) above sea level with peat depths increasing gradually from the coast to the centre of the North Moss where it is about 4 metres (13 feet) deep.

The annual rainfall is about 1600 mm (60 inches).

Both the River Add, and the Kilmartin Burn run through it, and it is bordered by tidal flats, saltmarsh, and brackish grasslands. It is home to hen harriers, and dragonflies, fritillary butterflies deer, and otters.



Key Locations of Moine Mohr





46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival, October 19 – 21, 2018

Submitted by Martha Whitlock Endres

What a lovely weekend it was! My husband, Kelley, and I attended the 46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival near Atlanta, together with the Annual Gathering of the Clan MacAlpin/e Society. We flew into Atlanta and stayed at the hotel in Decatur that our commander, Michael T. McAlpin, suggested. My MacAlpin cousin, J.D. Humphries, a seasoned driver in Atlanta traffic, graciously escorted us to the Clan dinner Friday evening and to the Games on Saturday.



What a dinner it was! We gathered at the Atlanta Burns Cottage for an extraordinary meal that included the haggis, followed by a buffet that included lamb and salmon. Professor Elliott MacFarlane, a connoisseur of Scotch whiskeys, entertained and educated us with tastings of rare selections.



After dinner, Michael T. McAlpin, Junior, and Earl Dale MacAlpine, our president, presented to our commander, Michael T. McAlpin, Senior, the award of the next feather. The camaraderie among MacAlpin/e's who gathered from near and far was heartfelt.



On Saturday, in spite of intermittent rain, spirits were high among folks at Stone Mountain. We enjoyed visiting many clan tents and vendors, watching competitions, and exploring the park. Our Clan tent was quite well done and

attracted many people who seemed interested in our clan. The Clan MacAlpine Society gathered for its annual meeting during the afternoon.



We are grateful for the opportunity to attend the dinner, the Games, and the annual meeting. We especially appreciate the friendship that other MacAlpin/e cousins shared with us during the events.

Clan MacAlpine Information

We invite you to learn more about Clan MacAlpine Society by going to our website www.macalpineclan.com and reviewing the wealth of information found there.

We hope you enjoy receiving your quarterly issues of this newsletter, *Remember Those From Whom You Claim*, that contains articles of interest and activities our members participate in.

For those of you on Facebook, check us out. We have many contributors to that site.

On our website you will find the store where you can order the clan items shown on this page, get membership information, find information on the Clan MacAlpine DNA project, and a variety of other sections about MacAlpine history and the history of Clan MacAlpine Society.

Also on the website you have the opportunity to support your Society by checking out the page on "Funding Projects" to discover ways you can make a donation to Clan MacAlpine Society. It is through your donations that we are able to participate in or support heritage activities. You can earmark your donation for:

- ◆ General Society Operations
- ◆ Society Clan Tent Fund
- ◆ Kilmartin Museum Fund
- ◆ Pipe and Drum Band Fund
- ◆ Scottish Dancing Fund

Be sure to watch for Highland Games in your locale. Look for a Clan MacAlpine Society tent and celebrate your heritage by getting acquainted with fellow MacAlpines.



Clan MacAlpine Challenge Coin



\$20.00 + 4.95 Shipping
Available in store on Society website at www.macalpineclan.com
Contact drscotmac@yahoo.com for further information

Clan MacAlpine Lapel Pin



\$10.00 + 4.95 Shipping
Available in store on Society website at www.macalpineclan.com
Contact drscotmac@yahoo.com for further information

Clan MacAlpine Society Kilt Pin



Custom designed by Mark McAlpin, incorporating elements of the boar's head, pine tree, crown, and sword, all of which are linked to the MacAlpines, and appear prominently in MacAlpine Heraldry.

The pins are made of silver weighing approximately 1 ounce -
Dimensions are 4" x 1 1/8"

\$75 USD payable by PayPal or check
Please contact

NotCommonKiltPins@outlook.com for questions or purchase

Clan MacAlpine Society Information

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